INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

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Board Program Taking Shape

Work is in progress on the agenda for the meeting of the Association's Board of Directors at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C., May 27 and 28, but final details are not complete and the exact program will be announced in a later issue of the INFORMATION LETTER. Items now planned for presentation and discussion include the following:

Report on the Association's public relations program, N.C.A. policy with respect to assisting canners in movement of surplus canned foods, discussion of revival of arbitration practices, statement from N.C.A. Counsel and discussion on label allowances, discussion of proposed standards and Food and Drug Administration policies on issuance of regulations, report of the Home Economics Committee and its proposed program, discussion of policy with respect to standardization of containers, report on preliminary plans for handling of the 1948 Convention in Atlantic City, presentation of handbook for N.C.A. staff employees, review of Association activities in the field of foreign trade, report of Finance Committee and consideration of budget, and reports of the Building, Legislative, Research and Statistics Committees.

Army Announces Canned Fruit and Vegetable Requirements

The Association has been advised by the Office of the Quartermaster Corps that tentative requirements of the armed services and certain government agencies for canned fruits and vegetables from the 1947 pack call for total purchases of 8,428,172 dozen cans of fruits, basis 2½'s, and 19,083,752 dozen cans of vegetables, basis 2's. In addition, the Army will need 1,712,184 gallons of pickles (all types). The Army's requirements for canned citrus juices and segments will be announced later.

Last year the Army made offers to purchase 5,402,784 dozen cans of canned fruit, basis 2½'s, and 12,794,663 dozen cans of canned vegetables, basis 2's.

The Quartermaster Corps has not announced whether or not it will buy this year on a nego- (See *Army Requirements*, page 241)

Weather Retards Pea Plantings, N.C.A. Survey Shows

Delayed plantings occasioned by unfavorable weather conditions indicate that the acreage of peas for canning this year may drop considerably below the high average of the past few seasons, according to a bulletin released this week by the National Canners Association. Present indications drawn from a survey of the

Urge Prompt Boxcar Handling

The Association of American Railroads has advised the National Canners Association that every effort is being made to equitably allocate the available supply of boxcars between the railroads in all sections of the country and that everything possible is being done to assure boxcars for shipping cans from can manufacturers' plants to canneries throughout the Nation.

The AAR states that, "In order to come anywhere near meeting the anticipated heavy requirements for boxcars to load commodities actually requiring this type of equipment, it is especially important that all concerned put forth special effort to see that boxcars are loaded and unloaded with utmost promptness."

Asparagus fiberometer, an instrument invented by H. K. Wilder, Assistant Director of the Association's Western Research Laboratories, to detect the presence of objectionable fiber in canned asparagus, is being used experimentally in connection with the testing of canned asparagus samples. Full description on page 239.

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Foreign allocations of tin plate for the third quarter of 1947 have been announced by the Office of International Trade, U. S. Department of Commerce. These allocations total 120,000 short tons, as compared with 110,000 short tons granted in the second quarter. Latin American countries were allocated a total of 41,943 short tons and the rest of the world, 78,000, leaving a small reserve held for contingency. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, France, Belgium, Norway, and The Netherlands were the principal countries to receive the tin plate.

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Effective Monday, May 12, the National Canners Association headquarters will open and close one hour earlier since the District of Columbia is observing daylight saving time from May 11 to September 28.

important pea canning areas point to a considerably smaller pack this season than last based on indicated reduced acreage and late plantings. A summary of the conditions as reported to the Association from various pea canning areas on May 5 follows:

"It is too early for a complete report on pea acreage planted for canning but because of the lateness of the season in the East and Midwest, and because of the extremely unfavorable weather conditions, the prospects are that considerable acreage that had been planned for 1947 will not be seeded.

"Pea planting in most of the Eastern and Midwestern pea districts has been delayed because of excessive rain and cold weather. In New York State and Wisconsin, where last year almost half of the Nation's pea crop was packed, prospects for getting peas into the ground in time to produce a satisfactory crop this year appear most discouraging.

"A survey of Wisconsin indicates that less than 20 percent of the Alaska acreage had been planted by May 5th, with practically no Sweets in the ground. Most of these plantings are in the lighter soils of the southern part of the State, and along the Lake. There has been very little planting of peas in the heavier soils which constitute a very large part of the pea acreage.

"Cold, rainy weather over last weekend will prevent planting the early part of this week. Wisconsin canners report that a 40-year experience in growing peas indicates that the best crops are grown when peas are planted from April 20th to May 1st, and that the risk of running into hot weather materially increases with plantings after the first of May. Many have indicated, however, that they will risk planting up to May 15. That leaves them only about a week to get the bulk of the Wisconsin acreage planted and that will be possible only if warm, sunny weather develops this week.

"Pea planting through Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio has likewise been delayed because of too much rain. Since the latest date for successful planting in the southern and central parts of those States has passed, considerable contracted acreage has been abandoned.

"In New York State a survey of 95 percent of the intended acreage shows 12.6 percent planted. Soil is so wet because of continuous rainy weather that canners state they will not be able to plant again before about Thursday (May 7) or Friday (May 8) of this week and then only if weather clears and temperature rises. Most canners say that they will not risk planting after May 20th. The entire pea planting in the State is about 5 weeks later than last year, and canners estimate that they will not be able to get more than from one-half to two-thirds of last year's acreage in the ground, and that only if weather conditions improve immediately.

"Maryland canners were late in getting their peas planted because of cold wet weather. Poor growing conditions have held back the growth of peas until they are reported to be only about 4 inches high in western Maryland. Canners report that a satisfactory crop of peas in this area depends on the weather remaining cool until harvest-time.

"Utah canners report pea planting finished, with acreage 29 percent below that of 1946.

"In Minnesota some peas were planted late in April but wet weather during early May stopped planting. If weather conditions improve in the next few days planting could proceed satisfactorily.

"Weather conditions in the Northwest have been more favorable than normal and pea planting in this territory is reported as practically completed. Crop prospects appear well above average and, according to reports, harvest may begin one to two weeks earlier than normal."

Weather of the Week

Reported by U. S. Weather Bureau
Week Ended May 6

Frequent rains during the week ending May 6, and wet fields further retarded farm activities over central and northern parts of the country east of the Mississippi, the Weather Bureau reports. Farm work and vegetation is still reported two to three weeks behind normal in this area. In Maryland, peas are reported budding and tomato planting is progressing slowly.

In the Northwest temperatures continued above normal and there were scattered showers. Additional moisture is needed in Oregon and eastern Washington. An average set of fruit is reported in Washington and peas are reported blooming in Oregon. In California scattered showers and hot weather were favorable for development of the fruit crop.

During the week ending May 6, temperatures were above normal except in an area from southern Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and northern Mississippi eastward and along the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina north. Rainfall during the week was frequent and occasionally heavy in the eastern third of the country and light in the Great Plains States, Northwest and Northern mountain area.

Information on temperatures and rainfall for the week ending May 6 for selected weather stations, as reported by the U. S. Weather Bureau, are shown in the following table:

Districts and stations	Temperature Av.	Temperature Depart. from normal	Precipitation Av.	Precipitation Depart from normal.
	D.	*D.*	*In.*	*In.*
Northeast:				
Portland, Me.	45	−4	2.64	+1.96
Syracuse, N. Y.	57	+5	0.89	+0.21
Buffalo, N. Y.	51	0	1.93	+1.23
Erie, N. Y.	56	+4	1.96	+1.17
Middle Atlantic:				
Trenton, N. J.	57	0	2.69	+1.89
Harrisburg, Pa.	61	+3	1.68	+0.96
Baltimore, Md.	63	+3	.10	+3.43
Norfolk, Va.	..	...	....	.....
Richmond, Va.	62	−1	0.82	+0.12
Midwest:				
Cleveland, Ohio	57	+4	1.82	+1.11
Toledo, Ohio	58	+3	1.81	+1.17
Columbus, Ohio	57	−1	1.27	+0.55
Cincinnati, Ohio	57	−2	1.79	+0.98
Fort Wayne, Ind.	55	0	1.79	+1.01
Indianapolis, Ind.	56	−3	1.08	+0.33
Evansville, Ind.	63	+3	1.79	+0.91
Peoria, Ill.	56	+1	3.72	+2.99
Grand Rapids, Mich.	52	0	0.89	+0.24
Milwaukee, Wis.	46	−2	0.52	−0.16
Madison, Wis.	52	−1	0.92	+0.13
Green Bay, Wis.	49	−1	0.73	+0.07
LaCrosse, Wis.	52	−2	0.74	+0.11
Minneapolis-St.Paul, Minn.	54	0	1.36	+0.71
Charles City, Iowa	..	...	....	.....
Davenport, Iowa	56	−1	0.48	−0.36
Des Moines, Iowa	56	−1	0.17	−0.91
Sioux City, Iowa	56	+1	0.18	−0.55
Omaha, Neb.	59	+1	0.23	−0.39
South Central:				
Springfield, Mo.	63	+3	0.86	−0.30
Fort Smith, Ark.	69	+3	0.70	−0.51
Corpus Christi, Tex.	78	+4	T.	−0.77
Brownsville, Tex.	81	+5	0.00	−0.56
Rocky Mountain:				
Denver, Colo.	64	+12	T.	−0.55
Grand Junction, Colo.	68	+11	0.00	−0.24
Salt Lake City, Utah.	67	+15	T.	−0.43
Pocatello, Idaho	63	+13	T.	−0.25
Boise, Idaho	66	+13	0.01	−0.29
West Coast:				
Walla Walla, Wash.	66	+9	0.03	−0.25
Yakima, Wash.	...	....	....	.....
Seattle, Wash.	57	+5	0.20	−0.30
Portland, Ore.	62	+7	0.04	−0.57
Roseburg, Ore.	61	+7	0.01	−0.52
Sacramento, Calif.	72	+11	0.00	−0.25
Fresno, Calif.	78	+12	0.00	−0.13
Los Angeles, Calif.	70	+11	T.	−0.19

T = Trace, Av. = Average, D. = Degree, In. = Inches.

California Fruit Committee

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced this week the appointment of members to serve on the Control Committee during the current season under the marketing agreement regulating the handling of fresh Bartlett pears, plums, and Elberta peaches grown in California.

Congress

Farm Labor

A bill (H. R. 3367) establishing a permanent farm labor supply program was introduced on May 7 by Chairman Clifford R. Hope of the House Committee on Agriculture. The bill is a proposal that was developed by the National Farm Labor Conference last January. It is expected that the House Agriculture Committee will hold hearings on the measure sometime next month.

Portal Pay

Congress approved the Conference Committee recommendations on the Portal-to-Portal Pay Act (H. R. 2157) on May 1. The proposal is now awaiting Presidential action.

General Labor Legislation

The Senate continued during the past week to consider the general labor law revision bill (S. 1126) reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Labor on April 17. On May 2 the Senate adopted by a vote of 60 to 28 an amendment proposed by Senators Taft, Ball, and Byrd that would forbid unions from coercing employees in selecting a collective bargaining agency but defeated on May 7 by a vote of 44 to 43 another Taft-Ball-Byrd amendment to restrict industry-wide bargaining. The Senate adopted by voice vote an amendment to the bill defining supervisors as those having the "responsibility to direct."

Another Taft, Ball, Byrd amendment, adopted on May 8 by a vote of 48 to 40, gives employers a voice in the administration of union welfare funds and limits the uses for which the money may be spent. It forbids payroll checkoffs of dues without the consent of the individual workers; prohibits employers from paying money to union officials except for stated purposes, and provides one year's imprisonment and a $10,000 fine for violations.

The more drastic bill (H. R. 3020) which passed the House on April 17 by a vote of 308 to 107 is pending on the Senate calendar.

Census

The Senate interrupted consideration of general labor law revision on May 7 to pass a number of uncontroversial measures among which was a bill (S. 554) to provide for a five year census of manufacturers, transportation, mineral industries, distributive trades, service establishments, and other businesses.

Clayton Act

Subcommittees of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees have concluded hearings on H. R. 515 and S. 104, companion bills to amend the anti-trust laws to prevent a corporation from purchasing the physical assets of a competing corporation, but have made no report on the proposals to the full Committee.

Water Pollution

Hearings before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Public Works are continuing on the Barkley-Taft water pollution control bill (S. 418).

Government Procurement

No action has been scheduled by the Senate Committee on Armed Services on the House passed bill (H. R. 1366) or the Senate companion measure (S. 222) to establish the public bid and acceptance method for the procurement of supplies and services.

Food and Drug Seizure

No action is scheduled at present by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, on identical bills (H. R. 3147-H. R. 3128) introduced by Chairman Wolverton and Represenative Miller of Connecticut at the request of the Food and Drug Administration to give that agency authority to seize misbranded and adulterated products that are being held for sale in the original package following shipment in interstate commerce.

Sugar Quotas

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson has requested Congress through its appropriate committees to consider soon an extension of the Sugar Act and a revision of the sugar import quotas established by the Act. The Sugar Act is due to expire on December 31, 1947. In the request of the Secretary, which was contained in letters addressed on May 5 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, he stated that he believed the United States was obligated to give Cuba a percentage increase in their quota because of the contribution made by that country during the war in increasing production.

Commodity Credit Corporation

It is expected that the House Committee on Banking and Currency will take up soon the question of extending the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Pending before the Committee is a Senate bill (S. 350) that would extend CCC for one additional year and would maintain its present borrowing capacity and capital structure.

Long Range Program

The House Committee on Agriculture on May 8 suspended hearings on the subject of a long range program for agriculture for a two-week period.

Marketing Orders

No further action is scheduled by the House Committee on Agriculture on the Hope bill (H. R. 452) to make the order sections of the Marketing Agreements Act applicable to all commodities. The Senate Committee has taken no action on a companion bill (S. 306).

Foreign Trade

Sources and Destinations of Canned Pea Exports in March

March export shipments of canned peas totaled 500,000 pounds, or less than 50 percent the quantity exported during February, the U. S. Department of Commerce has reported. The export shipments, which came from eleven widely-separated United States zones and went to 35 different countries, are shown by countries and weight as follows:

The biggest shipment for March was 184,000 pounds to Belgium; 45,000 went to Sweden; 50,000 to Curacao (N. W. I.); 38,500 to Republic of Panama; 29,000 to Paraguay; 22,000 to Cuba; 21,875 to Colombia; 18,000 to Venezuela; 12,000 to Switzerland; 10,200 to Miquelon and St. Pierre Islands; 7,500 to the Belgian Congo; 6,000 to South Africa; 5,994 to Syria; 5,888 to Panama Canal Zone; 6,000 to Mexico; 5,580 to Australia; 4,200 to Trinidad; and 2,260 to Honduras.

Purchased in 11 States, the exports originated in New York, Baltimore, Tampa, Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland, Oregon.

USDA and OIT officials point out that a substantial proportion of such export shipments is purchased by buying agents f.o.b. processor's plant, with the ultimate destination unknown to the seller. It indicates, they say, that the product frequently enters international trade unknown to the processor.

Statistics

Support Price Program for Turkeys Announced by USDA

The U. S. Department of Agriculture this week announced a price-support program for 1947-crop turkeys marketed during the period October 1, 1947, through January 31, 1948. This action has been taken to assure producers of price support on a nation-wide scale this year throughout the normal season of turkey marketing.

For the designated period, the Department will be prepared to buy dressed turkeys from processors who certify that they have paid all producers not less than the liveweight support prices which will be announced about October 1, and which will reflect a national average price of 90 percent of the September 15 parity price for turkeys. These prices, and the purchase prices to be announced for dressed turkeys, will vary according to the four production zones in which a program is now in effect in support of producer prices for breeding stock.

The price support program for breeder stock ends June 30, 1947. No support program will be set up for breeder hens or toms in 1948.

Price differentials will be established under the fall and winter program for three different liveweight classifications of 1947 crop turkeys: 18 pounds and under; 18-22 pounds; and 22 pounds and over. Lightweight birds will be priced 4 cents a pound above medium weight birds, and heavy birds at 6 cents a pound below mediumweights. Thus, the maximum spread between light and heavy birds will be 10 cents a pound, liveweight.

Canned Milk Statistics

March production of canned evaporated milk amounted to 270,800,000 pounds, higher than a year earlier for the fifth consecutive month, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported this week. Although the March output was 15 percent higher than a year earlier, it was 3 percent less than the 1941-45 March average. From February to March, production rose 29 percent, the same as the seasonal gain as registered a year earlier, but slightly higher than the average for 1941-45. During the first three months of the year, canned evaporated milk production totaled 687,300,000 pounds or 15 percent more than in the same months of 1946.

Canned condensed milk production was 8,620,000 pounds during March, a decline of 14 percent from a year earlier and 11 percent from the 5-year March average. While March output was 21 percent higher than February, this seasonal gain was slightly less than either a year earlier or the 5-year average.

Industrial Production and Worker Employment Rising

Industrial production in March, 1947, increased slightly over February and was about 12 percent higher than in March, 1946. The index in March of this year was 189 percent of the prewar average. The index of production worker employment of 184 in March was unchanged from February and compares with 132 a year earlier.

Wholesale prices of all commodities in March averaged 4 percent higher than in February and 38 percent above March, 1946. Wholesale food prices continued increasing during March and averaged more than 50 percent higher than in March, 1946.

The Consumers Price Index was slightly higher in March than in February and was up 20 percent over a year earlier. The March index of retail food prices of 190 was nearly 5 percent higher than a month earlier and 36 percent higher than in March, 1946. March retail prices of canned fruits and vegetables remained at the February level but continued one-third higher than a year earlier. Prices of fresh fruits and vegetables increased over February.

The following table, showing the indices from which the above comparisons were made, was derived from indices issued by the Federal Reserve Board and the Bureau of Statistics. To facilitate comparison with the immediate prewar period these indices were computed so that the 1935 to 1939 average equals 100.

Index of	Mar. 1947	Feb. 1947	Mar. 1946
	1935-39 = 100		
Industrial Production[1]—All	189	188	168
Canning and Preserving	139	140	127
Production Worker Employment—All Manf. Ind	184	184	132
Wholesale Prices:			
All Commodities	186	179	135
Food	212	205	138
Consumers' Price Index[2]	156	153	130
Retail Prices—All foods	190	182	140
Canned fruits & vegetables	173	173	130
Fresh fruits and vegetables	199	189	196

[1] Seasonally adjusted. [2] Formerly Cost of Living Index.

Rail and Boat Shipments of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Rail and boat shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables (exclusive of white potatoes) totaled 13,702 cars for the week ending May 3, 1947, according to a report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These shipments were slightly higher than those of the preceding week and exceed shipments for the corresponding week of last year by 21 percent.

The following table, compiled from statistics of USDA's Production and Marketing Administration, gives comparisons of carlot shipments of selected fresh vegetables and fruits for certain periods:

	—Week ending—		
	May 3, 1947	Apr. 26, 1947	May 4, 1946
VEGETABLES	*Carloads*	*Carloads*	*Carloads*
Beans, snap and lima	238	121	234
Tomatoes	620	410	1,904
Green peas	155	71	136
Spinach	73	165	18
Others	6,990	7,415	8,059
FRUITS			
Citrus	4,475	4,367	4,091
Other	1,151	829	613
Total	13,702	13,378	15,655

Canned Poultry Statistics

The quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during March totaled 6,148,000 pounds, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. This was 46 percent less than March last year and the smallest March quantity in the five years of record. The quantity used in canning during March consisted of 5,634,000 pounds of chicken and 514,000 pounds of turkey.

The quantity of poultry certified under Federal Inspection during February totaled 9,205,000 pounds, the smallest quantity for that month since February 1941. Of the total certified, 6,495,000 pounds were for canning and 2,710,000 pounds were for evisceration.

The following table shows the quantity of poultry canned by years and months:

	1945	1946	1947
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
January	15,343,000	13,369,000	9,458,000
February	16,390,000	11,581,000	7,423,000
March	18,746,000	11,402,000	6,148,000
April	18,392,000	10,118,000	.....
May	20,011,000	11,573,000	.....
June	14,401,000	10,687,000	.....
July	7,764,000	8,464,000	.....
August	8,034,000	10,978,000	.....
September	4,759,000	7,583,000	.....
October	5,815,000	10,855,000	.....
November	8,972,000	9,682,000	.....
December	7,960,000	8,905,000	.....
Total	146,587,000	125,197,000	23,029,000

Laboratories

FIBEROMETER INVENTED BY N.C.A. LABORATORY TECHNICIAN TO TEST FIBER IN CANNED ASPARAGUS

The National Canners Association's Research Laboratories are assisting the asparagus canning industry in the collection of data in anticipation of hearings to develop federal Food and Drug standards of identity, quality, and fill of container for canned asparagus. It was planned that each canner cooperating in this program would make toughness tests by whatever method is in use in his plant, as for example, the so-called "fork test," which, though not entirely satisfactory, is the only rapid test now in general use.

To meet the need for a more precise method, for detecting the presence of objectionable fiber in canned asparagus, an instrument has been devised by H. K. Wilder, Assistant Director of the Association's Western Laboratories. Such an instrument is of great importance at this time because toughness is one of the most significant quality factors in canned asparagus, and one for which there has heretofore been no rapid standardized method of test. By use of this instrument it is possible to record the number of tough spears in a sample and, for each individual spear, the length of fibrous portion. Cut asparagus, except very short units, also may be tested.

The principle of the new method is that each spear is tested at regular intervals throughout its length by a standardized cutting device. The essential part of the cutter is a wire held rigidly in a frame of definite weight so that the horizontal wire may be lowered upon the supported asparagus unit and allowed to press down with a definite shearing force. Presence of fiber is indicated by failure to cut through the spear.

The instrument consists of two parts: (1) A support for the asparagus unit to be tested, and (2) a standardized cutting device which is lowered upon the asparagus. The support now being used consists of a vertical block about 1½ inches thick, 5 inches long and 6 inches high, having in its upper edge an approximately parabolic-shaped horizontal channel to receive the asparagus and, at right angles, vertical slots ½ inch apart through which the cutting wire is passed to press upon the asparagus. The channel is 1⅛ inches deep and 1⅛ inches wide at the top. The purpose of the parabolic shape is to provide a channel suitable for supporting different diameters of asparagus.

The cutting device consists of two inverted U-shaped hard aluminum cross plates separated by rectangular brass bars large enough to provide the necessary weight. The cutting wire is of stainless steel of 0.031-inch diameter held rigidly in tension between supporting screws in the brass bars 1½ inches below the cross plates. The entire frame and wire assembly in the present model has a weight of three pounds.

The method of test is as follows: An asparagus unit is placed in the channel with its cut end at the proper end of the block, any obliquely cut portion of an end being allowed to protrude. The test is made by holding the cutting device with the wire horizontal and lowering the wire through a slot in the support so that the wire at its midpoint contacts the asparagus. The cutting device is lowered gently with a slow, vertical motion, without downward pressure, and in slots near the head of the spear the wire is pressed readily through the asparagus by the weight of the frame. Repeating this procedure from slot to slot progressively away from the head of the spear, a slot may be reached where the asparagus fibers will interpose considerable resistance to the wire. If the asparagus is sufficiently tender, the wire will cut through the spear but, if considerable fiber is present, the wire will fail to sever the spear. The distance of this point from the lower end of the spear, as indicated by the number of ½-inch slots remaining, provides a numerical indication of the comparative amount of fiber in the spear being tested.

By selection of proper size of wire and weight of frame, the tests should provide an indication of the fiber content of different asparagus units as related to their preference by a consumer. Tests must yet be made with various wire diameters and weights of frame to determine what combination will best represent the relationship of this test to desirable or undesirable fiber content, but the diameter and weight indicated above appear to provide somewhere near a satisfactory combination.

The instrument will be studied during the canning season in an effort to establish more definitely the best combination of factors. In its fundamental design, it provides a method of test which can be described so that various manufacturers could reproduce instruments with substantially identical characteristics, and it is simple in operation so that similar results can be obtained by its use in the hands of different analysts.

Details of construction of this instrument will be furnished upon application to the Western Branch Research Laboratories, National Canners Association, 322 Battery Street, San Francisco 11, Calif.

Standards

Proposed Revision of Canned Tomato Standard Announced

As a result of the hearing held March 20, 1947, the Federal Security Agency announced in the *Federal Register* for May 6 the proposed findings of fact and a proposed amendment to the standard of identity for canned tomatoes. The effect of the amendment is to permit use, as optional ingredients, of certain calcium salts other than calcium chloride, which is permitted under the existing standard.

After stating the findings of fact, the proposed regulation concludes:

It is proposed to amend § 53.40 *Canned tomatoes; identity; label statement of optional ingredients* as follows:

1. That subparagraph (4) of paragraph (a) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

(4) Purified calcium chloride, calcium surphate, calcium citrate, monocalcium phosphate or any two or more of these calcium salts, in a quantity reasonably necessary to firm the tomatoes, but in no case such that the amount of the calcium contained in such salts is more than 0.026 percent of the weight of the finished canned tomatoes.

2. That the third sentence in paragraph (b) be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "When one or more of the optional ingredients designated in paragraph (a) (4) of this section is present, the label shall bear the statement "Trace of ..... Added" or "With Added Trace of ....," the blank being filled in with the words "Calcium Salt" or "Calcium

Salts" as the case may be or with the name or names of the particular calcium salt or salts added.

Any interested person whose appearance was filed at the hearing may, within 20 days from the date of publication of this proposed order in the *Federal Register*, file with the Hearing Clerk of the Federal Security Agency, Office of the General Counsel, Room 3255 Social Security Building, 4th Street and Independence Avenue S. W., Washington, D. C., written exceptions thereto. Exceptions shall point out with particularity the alleged errors in the proposed order, and shall contain specific references to the pages of the transcript of the testimony or to the exhibits on which each exception is based. Such exceptions may be accompanied with a memorandum or brief in support thereof. Exceptions and accompanying memoranda or briefs should be submitted in quintuplicate.

No Tolerance Permitted for DDT, FDA Official Declares

Paul B. Dunbar, Commissioner of Food and Drug, Food and Drug Administration, in a letter to Dr. E. J. Cameron, Director, National Canners Association's Washington Research Laboratories, stated that in the opinion of Food and Drug Administration officials canned foods should be free of DDT and that canners have an obligation under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to remove effectively the DDT which may be present as the food is received. Commissioner Dunbar's letter was in response to an inquiry made by Dr. Cameron with regard to possible tolerances which might be permitted for DDT in canned foods. Text of both letters follow:

April 24, 1947

Food and Drug Administration
Federal Security Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Occasionally we receive inquiries as to the amounts of residual DDT which the Food and Drug Administration might consider objectionable in foods, particularly canned foods.

The only announcement bearing on this that has come to our attention is one which, as we recall, applied only to fresh fruits, for which a provisional limit of seven parts per million was given. We are wondering whether, in view of the studies on this subject since the original announcement, the Administration is now prepared to state tolerances which it considers reasonable for other classes of foods, including canned foods.

If you are in a position to state such tolerances or amplify the previous announcement, such a statement would naturally be of interest to canners and we would appreciate having permission to carry the statement in our INFORMATION LETTER.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) E. J. Cameron,
Director.

May 2, 1947

Dr. E. J. Cameron
National Canners Association
Research Laboratories
1739 H. Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. (6)

Dear Dr. Cameron:

We have your letter of April 24 inquiring as to the amount of residual DDT which might be regarded as objectionable in food, particularly canned food.

We note that you refer to the announcement which we issued dealing with the limit of seven parts per million for DDT present as spray residue on apples and pears. No additional announcement on this subject was issued nor do we contemplate one at this time.

In our opinion canners who use DDT sprayed on foods for the production of canned foods have an obligation under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to remove effectively the DDT which may be present as the food is received, and, in our opinion, canned foods should be free of this chemical.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) P. B. Dunbar,
Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

N.C.A. Laboratories to Visit Asparagus Canning Plants

In preparation for a proposed hearing on Food and Drug standards for canned asparagus, both the Washington and the Western Branch Laboratories are visiting canners of asparagus this month to get first hand information about styles of pack, canning operations, etc., and to obtain samples to illustrate all types of canned asparagus. Particular attention will be given to collection of samples of commercial packs at or near the substandard level of quality in order to have data to indicate a proper dividing line between standard and substandard quality.

Representatives from the Western Laboratory already have visited most of the asparagus canners in California. They plan to visit those in the Northwest area in the next two weeks.

The Washington Laboratory plans to have representatives visit the Tri-State canners next week, and the Illinois and Michigan canners during the last two weeks of May.

Food and Drug Administration technologists and inspectors are also making a thorough survey of asparagus canning operations. The N.C.A. representatives are cooperating with the Government officials in an endeavor to cover all phases of the industry as completely as possible. In many instances the two agencies are visiting canning factories together and are sharing in the preparation of experimental packs.

Personnel

Nash Accepts Comstock Post

Comstock Canning Corp., Newark, N. Y., has announced that effective June 1, Arthur E. Nash will become actively associated with the sales department of that company. For the past three years Mr. Nash has served as secretary of the Association of New York State Canners, Inc., and is well-known and liked by the canning trade.

Mr. Nash was a Newark, N. Y., school principal before he became secretary of the Association of New York State Canners, Inc. Prior to that he had been interested in Association work of various types and was an outstanding community leader. He is a graduate of Colgate University and the University of Rochester.

President E. E. Burns of the Association of New York State Canners, Inc., in a letter to all members of that Association on May 3, stated that no successor to Mr. Nash has been named.

Ritter Co. Secretary Retires

William H. Ritter, Jr., President of P. J. Ritter Co., Bridgeton, N. J., has announced the retirement of the company's Secretary, Miss Louise W. McDevitt, effective March 31. March 13 of this year was the 54th Anniversary of Miss McDevitt's association with Ritter. The position she took with the company in 1894 was her first in the business world. She remained with Ritter during her entire career.

A pioneer in the field of women in the industry, Miss McDevitt became one of the most widely known and respected executives in the food trade.

Miss Isabel Hermon, who until now held the office of assistant secretary, succeeds Miss McDevitt as secretary.

Raw Products

Factors Affecting Acid and Total Solids of Tomatoes

An excellent bulletin on the factors affecting the acid and total solids of tomatoes has been prepared by Frank A. Lee and Charles B. Sayre and was recently issued by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., as Technical Bulletin No. 278. Since this subject is of interest to a large number of canners, an abstract of the material is presented, as follows:

"Tests extending over a period of five years revealed that the moisture content of the soil is an important factor in the development of total acid and total solids in the fruits of the tomato plant. Sixteen varieties were tested under various conditions and it was found that all varieties produced fruits containing higher total acid on the fresh or dry-weight basis and higher total solids when grown under restricted soil moisture supply than when grown with abundant soil moisture.

"The total acid content of tomato fruits was found in many cases to be high at the beginning of the season, to decline as the season progresses, and to rise at the end of the ripening period. This general trend can be altered by changing soil moisture conditions. The final upward trend was not observed when the season ended abruptly. In some varieties these variations were not so marked as in others. Tomatoes grown under field conditions may vary as much as 25 percent in total acid throughout the season. Variations in acid content of varieties were noted from year to year.

"The use of potash fertilizer tends to result in tomato fruits that are higher in total acid. This was especially noted when relatively large amounts of potash were added to the soil. Nitrogen fertilizer seems to have little effect on the acid content of the fruit.

"The total solids content of tomatoes also differs considerably among the varieties and is modified by conditions under which the plants are grown. The effective use of fertilizers, especially potash, will increase the total solids content of ripe tomatoes. If one desires to keep the acid content of the crop at a minimum, the field should be irrigated in dry seasons, and the addition of potash to the soil should be held to a minimum consistent with satisfactory crop yields."

Canners desiring to study the tables in detail should obtain a copy of the bulletin from the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

European Corn Borer Control

Recent improvements in airplane spraying equipment should aid in more rapid and effective control of the European corn borer and of insects destructive to forests, the Agricultural Research Administration has reported. A boom-type sprayer developed and tested applied approximately 2 gallons per acre of DDT in oil in a 35-foot swath at the rate of about 10 acres per minute. This reduced borer infestation in the stalks by 83.5 percent and in the ears by 92.2 percent.

A similar unit used in a larger plane for forest-insect control applied 1 gallon of this poison per acre in a 100-foot swath at the rate of 18 to 20 acres per minute. The work on insect-control equipment is a cooperative project with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Deaths

Charles F. Burns Dies

Charles F. Burns of Alton, N. Y., passed away at his home, May 1. He had been active in the processing industry since 1927, when the Alton Canning Co. was established. Previous to this, he had for years been a major exporter of dried fruits. He was actively connected with the industry at the time of his death, although for the last few years his son had been the active manager of the business.

He is survived by his only son, Edward E., who is now president of the Association of New York State Canners, Inc.

Supplies

March Production of Glass Containers Shows Increase

For the second time this year, production of glass containers exceeded 10 million gross, according to preliminary figures released this week by the Bureau of the Census. Total production reported in March amounted to 10.6 million gross, only 5 percent below the all-time high of 11.2 million gross reached in January, 1947, but 15 percent greater than production in February. Substantial increases were shown for food containers.

Food Closures Production

Production of commercial closures during March, 1947, amounted to 1,176 million units, according to the Bureau of the Census. This was 2 percent above the February, 1947, total of 1,155 million units, but 25 percent below the 1946 peak reached in October. Of the March total, 618 million were closures for food containers, while 345 million were metal closures for non-food containers and 214 million were plastic closures for non-food containers.

ARMY REQUIREMENTS

(Concluded from page 235)

tiated or bid basis. However, it is expected to make this announcement in the very near future.

The three main procurement depots in New York, N. Y., Chicago, Ill., and Stockton, Calif., will continue in operation this year irrespective of whether the Army buys on a negotiated or bid basis. Also, the Army will continue to have representatives in the field, QMC officials declared.

The following breakdown by commodities gives the 1947 Army procurement requirements:

Canned Fruits (Basis 12/2½'s)	Doz.
Apples	614,390
Applesauce	480,378
Apricots	649,614
Blackberries	229,159
Blueberries	46,254
Boysenberries	5,333
Cherries, sour	372,651
Cherries, sweet	112,718
Figs	104,830
Fruit Cocktail	990,533
Pears	868,538
Prunes, Italian	6,949
Peaches	1,209,942
Pineapple	1,530,292
Juice, Pineapple	976,085
Plums	30,506
Canned Vegetables (Basis 12/2's)	**Doz.**
Asparagus	927,256
Beans, Lima	356,807
Beans, Snap	1,752,257
Beets	771,506
Carrots	1,005,700
Catsup, Tomato	922,378
Corn	1,665,256
Juice, Tomato	1,753,585
Peas	3,150,819
Potatoes, Sweet	42,295
Pumpkin	175,647
Sauerkraut	764,399
Spinach	1,241,647
Tomatoes	4,223,881
Tomato Paste	43,500
Tomato Puree	286,729
	Gal.
Pickles (All types)	1,712,184

Forthcoming Meetings

May 12—National Canners Association, Plant Sanitation Course, Yorktowne Hotel, York, Pa.

May 21-22—Industrial Waste Conference, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

May 22-23—Ozark Canners Association, Spring Meeting, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

May 25-28—Flavoring Extract Manufacturers Association, 38th Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

May 26—National Canners Association, Administrative Council Meeting, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

May 27-28—National Canners Association, Board of Directors Meeting, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

June 1-2—Michigan Canners Association, Spring Meeting, Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, Mich.

June 1-4—Institute of Food Technologists, Seventh Annual Meeting, Statler Hotel, Boston, Mass.

June 2-5—Greater New York Grocery Buyers Show, Madison Square Garden, New York, N. Y.

June 9-11—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Mid-year Meeting, Skytop Lodge, Skytop, Pa.

June 10-11—U. S. Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Meeting, Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

June 11-13—American Marketing Association, Spring Conference, Hotel Commodore, New York, N. Y.

July 1-18—Indiana Canners Association, Annual Technicians' School, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

July 9-18—Indiana Canners Association, Mold Count School, Horticulture Department, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

July 23-August 1—Association of New York State Canners, Inc., Mold Count School, Geneva Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

November 20-21—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Annual Convention, Savery Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Fall Convention, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 13-17—National Food Brokers Association, Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 18-23—National Canners Association, Annual Convention (hotel to be announced), Atlantic City, N. J.

January 18-23—Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Annual Exhibit, Convention Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.

To Receive Appert Award

Dr. C. Olin Ball of the Owens-Illinois Glass Co., will be awarded the Nicolas Appert medal at the 7th annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists, which will be held at Boston, Mass., June 1 to 4. Dr. Ball's numerous scientific and technological contributions to the technical aspects of food processing include studies in the short time high temperature processing of foods.

Dr. Ball was for some years connected with the National Canners Association laboratory, during which time he developed the mathematical methods now used for calculation of processes for canned foods, a contribution of fundamental importance in canning technology.

USDA Meat Production Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended May 3, totaled 318 million pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This production was 7 percent above the 296 million pounds produced during the preceding week and 18 percent above the 270 million pounds recorded for last year.

More Powerful than DDT

Laboratory tests with benzene hexachloride revealed it to be the most toxic insecticide known against housefly adults and larvae, being about 8 to 10 times as toxic as DDT, according to the Agricultural Research Administration. It was found to be extremely toxic to German roaches, more so than pyrethrum, which had always been considered outstanding in this respect. It was also more toxic than DDT to the following insects that attack crops: Large milkweed bug, melon worm, southern armyworm, southern beet webworm, alder flea beetle, imported cabbageworm, armyworm, and corn earworm.

U. S. Trade Mission to Japan

The Assistant Secretary of War announced on May 7 that a special Trade Mission would leave for Japan on May 8 to study the possibilities of reopening private trade with Japan. This Mission will be in Japan for one month and will consist of representatives of the War, Treasury, State, and Commerce Departments, Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and United States Commercial Corporation.

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